

S-292  
LaVallette House  
Crisfield vicinity  
private

1890

Due to its isolated but prominent coastal site, the LaVallette house is a local landmark in Crisfield, especially for area watermen <sup>who</sup> ~~see~~ sight the chimneys of the house for their bearings. The single-story Queen Anne style frame house is covered by a combination of hip and gabled roof shapes. The walls are currently sheathed with aluminum except for the gables which retain fishscale shingles and stick decoration.

Albert T. LaVallette, Junior, is documented in the biographical record of the Eastern Shore as a turn of the century dealer in seafood from Chesapeake Bay and Tangier Sound. Evidently, he was known especially for hatching and raising diamond back terrapins for East Coast markets. His house, named Ruth-Elie for his two children, was erected on a point southeast of nearby ~~at~~ Crisfield.

**Maryland Historical Trust  
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

Survey No. S-292

Magi No. 2002925604

DOE   yes   no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic LaValette House

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number End of LaValette Road at Hammock Point on Jersey Island not for publication

city, town Crisfield    vicinity of    congressional district First

state Maryland county Somerset

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<u>  </u> district	<u>  </u> public	<u>  </u> occupied	<u>  </u> agriculture	<u>  </u> museum
<u>  </u> building(s)	<u>  </u> private	<u>  </u> unoccupied	<u>  </u> commercial	<u>  </u> park
<u>  </u> structure	<u>  </u> both	<u>  </u> work in progress	<u>  </u> educational	<u>  </u> private residence
<u>  </u> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<u>  </u> entertainment	<u>  </u> religious
<u>  </u> object	<u>  </u> in process	<u>  </u> yes: restricted	<u>  </u> government	<u>  </u> scientific
	<u>  </u> being considered	<u>  </u> yes: unrestricted	<u>  </u> industrial	<u>  </u> transportation
	<u>  </u> not applicable	<u>  </u> no	<u>  </u> military	<u>  </u> other:

**4. Owner of Property** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name James and Angela Peters

street & number 1241 Dolphin Road telephone no.:   

city, town Singer Island state and zip code Florida 33404

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Somerset Clerk of Court    liber   

street & number Somerset County Courthouse    folio   

city, town Princess Anne state MD 21853

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title   

date       federal    state    county    local   

depository for survey records   

city, town    state

## 7. Description

Survey No. S-292

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The LaValette House stands at the end of LaValette Road which intersects Norris Harbor Drive on the south~~east~~ side of Crisfield, Somerset County, Maryland. The story-and-a-half Victorian house faces west, while the principal roof ridges are oriented on an east/west axis.

The irregular plan frame house is supported by a continuous brick foundation and is sheathed with a combination of aluminum siding and fishscale shingles. The main block is covered by a complex series of wood shingle roofs with extended eaves. Attached to the back of the house is a modern bedroom wing.

The west (main) elevation is an uneven facade with a projecting centrally located bay with flanking porches. The main entrance is situated on the south porch wall, and the door is a heavily molded four-panel design. The porch roof is distinguished by a decorative balustrade with urn finials. The projecting bay immediately north of the entrance is covered by a gable-front roof and has a second floor balcony that is reached through double doors on the second floor. Protruding through the roof on the north side of the main block is a paneled brick chimney with a corbelled cap. A shed dormer marks the west slope of the main gable roof.

The north and south gable ends of the main house are essentially alike with paired or single 1/1 sash windows lighting the first and second floors. The upper gable of both sides retains its fishscale shingles. The peak of the roof is embellished with simple stick decoration.

Extending from the east wall of the main house is a gable roofed kitchen wing finished in the same manner as the main house. Narrow brick chimneys rise in two locations from the south side. The rear is covered by a Gothic cap, and the gable end is finished with the same stick style decoration.

The irregular plan has a stair hall in the front southwest corner. The stair, however, has been largely stripped of its woodwork. Portions of the Victorian period newel post design and baluster profiles remain on the second floor. The front room or parlor has the most elaborate mantel with a corner hearth location with an arched opening. A shell carving is found in the center under the simply molded mantel shelf which is flanked by paneled spandrals. The arched hearth opening is filled with a cast iron coal stove.

Four-panel doors open into the adjacent rooms. The door surrounds are symmetrically molded with bulls-eye corner blocks. The high baseboard has an ogee top molding. A mantel in the dining room (behind the parlor) has a molded surround, a plain frieze, and a dentiled bed molding to the mantel shelf. Piercing the wall directly north of the mantel is a four-panel door which opens into the enclosed porch.

The balance of first floor rooms are simply finished with modern materials or left alone with undistinguished late nineteenth-century woodwork.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. S-292

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1890

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The LaValette house is a local landmark in Crisfield for area waterman as well as residents. Waterman are known to sight the chimneys for their orientation off shore from Crisfield. Unfortunately the exterior of the house has been compromised with the application of aluminum siding. Some period details such as the fishscale shingles and stick style ornamentation in the peaks have been left in place. The interior has been altered as well with the removal of the stair balustrade. Period woodwork for two rooms as well as several doors remain intact.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. S-292

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name CrisfieldQuadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

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Zone Easting NorthingB 

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Zone Easting NorthingC 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul Touart - Architectural Historianorganization Somerset County Historical Trustdate 7/31/85street & number 424 N. Somerset Avenuetelephone 651-0077city or town Princess Annestate MD 21853

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

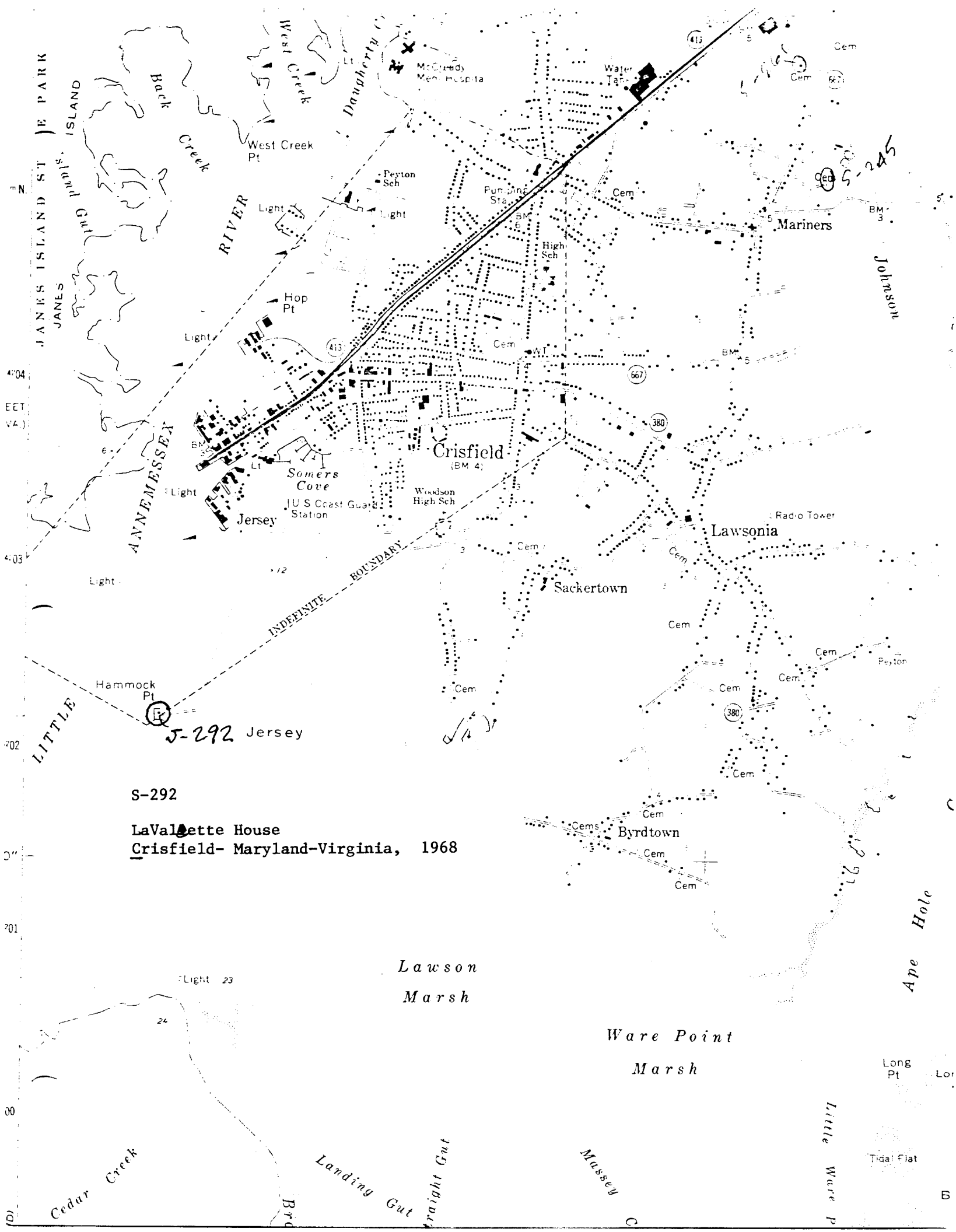
The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

Description Continued

The second floor is an undivided space over the main block. A small door opens into the partially converted bathroom over the kitchen wing.

Behind the house is a small weatherboard frame storage building covered with a medium sloped roof. The structure is held together with wire nails. In the field near this building is one of the last terrapin holding pens made of vertical wood panels driven into the marsh.



S-292

LaVallette House  
Crisfield- Maryland-Virginia, 1968

Lawson  
Marsh

Ware Point  
Marsh

Long  
Pt

Tidal Flat





LaValette House S-292  
Crisfield vicinity, Somerset County  
Southwest Elevation  
8/85, Paul Touart, Photographer  
Neg./Md. Historical Trust



LaValette House S-292  
Crisfield vicinity, Somerset County  
North Elevation  
8/85, Paul Touart, Photographer  
Neg./Md. Historical Trust



LaValette House S-292  
Crisfield vicinity, Somerset County  
Northwest elevation  
8/85, Paul Touart, Photographer  
Neg./Md. Historical Trust



LaValette House S-292  
Crisfield vicinity, Somerset County  
South Elevation  
8/85, Paul Touart, Photographer  
Neg./Md. Historical Trust

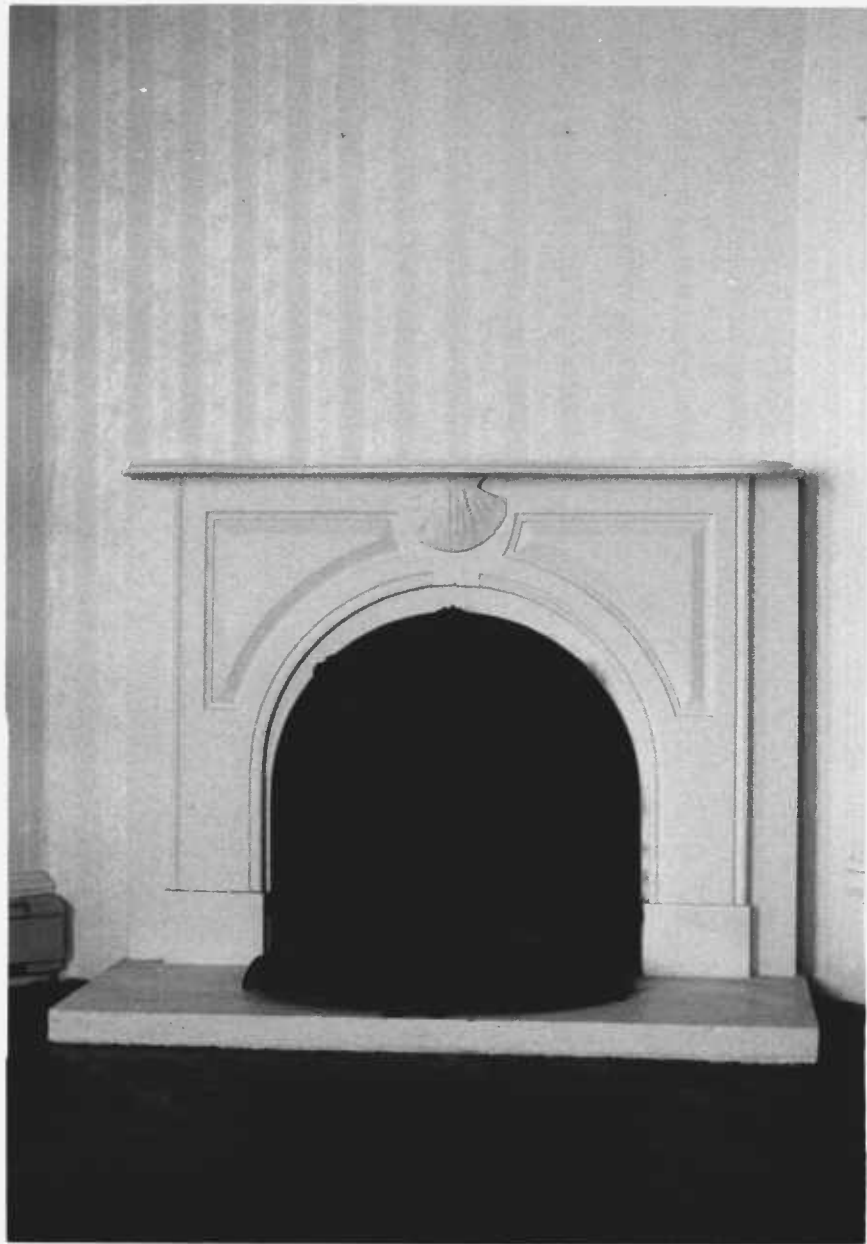




LaValette House S-292  
Crisfield vicinity, Somerset County  
Terrapin Pound  
8/85, Paul Touart, Photographer  
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LaValette House S-292  
Crisfield vicinity, Somerset County  
Frame Outbuilding & Terrapin Pound  
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LaValette House                      S-292  
Crisfield vicinity, Somerset County  
Parlor Mantel  
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Crisfield vicinity, Somerset County  
Parlor Mantel  
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LaValette House S-292  
Crisfield vicinity, Somerset County  
Dining Room Mantel  
8/85, Paul Touart, Photographer  
Neg./Md. Historical Trust





LaValette House                      S-292  
Crisfield vicinity, Somerset County  
First floor door  
8/85, Paul Touart, Photographer  
Neg./Md. Historical Trust